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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

I.

REPLY TO LLOYD BRYCE.

MY DEAR COUSIN : I take the liberty of so addressing you, as you have described yourself a nephew of my Uncle Sam. Many of your cousins agree with the views you express in your article on "Primitive Simplicity" in the NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW for November. So do I. But I think, for the sake of our dear uncle, you should have omitted the conversation with the imprisoned anarchists. In addressing those who are discontented with the unfulfilled promises of society and the violated pledges of our civilization, it were well to lay but little stress on the generosity of our good uncle.

In former days, when our ancient relative was in easy circumstances, he was

"Rich enough

To give us all a farm,"

and his wealth, great as it was, did not exceed his profuse generosity, for he did most bountifully provide for thousands of his nephews. But, unfortunately, some of our cousins were not content with a fair share of the old gentleman's prodigality. Many, as you know, took land enough to make a great many more farms than each required, and consequently some of our ancient kinsman's grand nephews and great grand nephews are deprived of their share of a legacy ample for all had it been properly administered. And, as succeeding generations, though veritable heirs of our good uncle, descendants of his brothers who helped to release his estate from King George's mortgage, come upon the scene, they must needs be servants to the heirs of our forestalling cousins. Not all the tramps who caused our uncle so much trouble spoke in that dialect which gives so interesting a flavor to your conversation with the anarchist. Are there not many who use our own vernacular in all its Columbian purity who have been defrauded of their rights by the unequal distribution of our Uncle Sam's legacy? We may hang a few of these for fighting against the scheme of society which abets their deprivation, but if there be others whose unwillingness to be disinherited takes some less violent form than killing policemen, we will finally have to heed their demands for justice. You may argue against anarchy never so wisely, dear cousin, but you must not forget that injustice cannot permanently maintain the safety of society.

Better heed the demands of the blind goddess, that her scales, rather than her sword, may be the implement with which she will right the wrongs of the disinherited.

HERMAN KUEHN.